

WSACE Eastern District Meeting
April 8-9, 2004

The following were in attendance:

Jolene Gosselin	Douglas County	Mike Murray	HDR Engineering
Roger Arms	WSDOT Yakima	Jay Weber	CRAB
Stephanie Tax	WSDOT H&LP	Bill Johns	Adams County
Keith Martin	WSDOT H&LP	Scott Yaeger	Adams County
Ross Dunfee	Benton County	Scott Merriman	Assn. of Counties
Mike Horton	WSDOT H&LP	Todd O'Brien	Adams County
Paul Mahre	WSDOT Wenatchee	Scott Smith	Columbia County
Mark Storey	Whitman County	Greg Pezoldt	Chelan County
Dane Dunford	Whitman County	Steve Gorcester	TIB
Paul Bennett	Kittitas County	Joel Ristau	Asotin County
Gary Ekstedt	Yakima County	Bob Breshears	Lincoln County
Brad Miller	HDR Engineering	Rob McGaughey	Okanogan
Larry Pearson	CRAB		

Handouts:

Local programs Biannual report, Spring 2004

TIB Report

Prioritization of gravel road update and priority array report

CAMS handout

Handout WAC 136-150

City /County Memorandum of understanding

2004 session wrap up

Derek opened the meeting by providing an overview of our meeting content and passing out the agenda.

Stephanie Tax, Local Programs provided a discussion on Bridge & Toll Credits. Eligible projects are from TEA-21, 1998 to present and include any phase not authorized prior to the date of the credits. The purpose: make it easier but this is not new \$'s. Toll credits are created due to the cost of the Washington State Ferry's maintenance & operations. Stephanie believes that this 100% funding for bridges will be in the next TEA package. In the past, the State received \$400 M total; distribution of funds to the counties was \$180-200M of that.

Due to some problems, all federal funding of BIA have to have letter from BIA accepting the dollars to get federal funds processed.

Stephanie states that we are now in a 7 month extension which will expire at the end of April 2004. She expects 2 months in conference before voted on. The \$'s will be <300B but >200B and the new bill will be enacted in late summer 2004.

President has stated that he will veto anything >\$260B even though this bill self funded. Bill funded out of highway trust account.

Biannual report, spring 2004 handed out which shows the earmarks for Washington State.

Unlike past years Stephanie does not plan to send out your allocation letter until the new is bill passed stating amount of STP distribution for the year. She does suggest you move forward and use last year's allocation numbers for planning.

Mike Horton distributed the Local Roadway Needs handout. Bridge call for projects is out. It will not be a spring and fall call just the one now. He stated that bridge sites will be visited before going before the BRAC committee to rank this summer.

Kathleen Davis is scheduling meetings with the MPO/RTPO's in the state. She is discussing the need for information to put together the WTP. There was a discussion in regard to the WTP and how important it is to be involved with your MPO/RTPO's and the review for developing the plan. Projects need to be in the plan. Ross asked if it is so important who is going to do the communication. Scott M. agreed to work with Jerry Hauth on this. Derek said that Jerry has a request in for a county rep to work on the WTP plan.

Schedule is as follows:

4/28 WVTC

4/29 Yakima/BFRC

4/30 Palouse

5/5 NEW ?/Colville

5/6 Quadco/SRTC

Stephanie is currently putting together the books on the allocations and obligations for all STP funds since enacted. This is for the period of 1992-present. She feels it is a good time to get the books together prior to new act.

Jay Weber provided an update on CRAB. He stated that there is a CRAB Board meeting at the end of the month. The agenda is on their website. He stressed the need to please make sure Annual Certifications are in. The board meeting will not provide any time for turnaround if an error is identified.

CRAB worked on two new dead bills; Make up of Board and Bars reporting bill.

Jay stated that Mobility will be deployed to all counties this year. He said the conversion schedule will be based on how clean your data set is; the cleaner the better. The current list of upgrades for mobility is estimated at \$50K. Questions have come up on mobility's ability to interface with Arc View. Looks like it will be compatible with Arc View but don't know yet.

Jay stated that counties are getting creative with the Day labor calculation. Jay said if you know there may be a problem, early notice would be appreciated. No county has been a repeat offender. Don't want to go back and open up the statute but handle by WAC in-house which allows a case by case basis.

Jay thinks the Tim Eyman initiative will pass with a 55/45 percent and believes it has potential constitutional problems. Counties will need to scramble if no contingency planning. Will be in effect Jan 1, 2005. Reaction will have to be immediate.

Steve Gorcester passed out the TIB report. He discussed the lack of dollars for the programs this year but there will be a call. New grant cycle call will be in June with a review in August and selection in November.

TIB Academy Training is coming up along with Local Agency Training soon. Steve suggested attendance would be beneficial. TIB is still paying for over programming of the past. Working on stabilizing the program. Looks like \$60M this call, down from \$80M.

Steve stated that after comments reviewed, TIB is not going to change region distribution from the talked about 5 to 3 or 19 distributions to 11 distributions.

We had a presentation by Mike Murray of HDR and Brad Miller, Bridge Engineer with HDR. They handed out a prioritization of gravel road update and priority arrays report. Two projects discussed, one took 2 months without a citizen committee the other took 1 year with a committee. Good information to use in a road prioritization process.

Brad discussed a program he has worked on for years. First as a DOS base and now conversion to visual basic. Timber bridge analysis and rating program, design program Done by HDR for the Forest Service. It includes a load rating and design all on CD. Not available to us at the meeting but believes will be available very soon. Delay caused by the Forest Service adding to it. Has a user manual on the CD. Need to request CD from Brad Miller (406) 532-2200 later this season.

Ross provided an FYI only CAMS handout. User group meeting slated for September in Ocean Shores.

Ross stated that DNR wants counties to file record of surveys for construction projects.

Ross was tasked by SE Region RAP with working up a draft WAC and memorandum in regard to Sheriff's diversion. CRAB sent out request for examples of counties with agreements. This continues to be an issue with the Counties. Due to the fact that this issue if not likely to go away it was discussed and agreed that it may be better if the County Engineers took the lead. Stated that this is not on the radar screen with legislators. Al King is distributing for review. It was suggested that Ross discuss at summer conference and keep discussion going. Derek will forward to Jerry for agenda.

City/County Engineer Joint meeting discussion on working together, Memorandum of understanding handed out. Four issues were identified and they are listed in the MOU. Looking for volunteers to assist in these areas to move issues forward.

April 9 Round Table

Guests Don Senn, Scott Merriman, Stephanie Tax, Jay Weber and Larry Pearson

Scott Smith discussed the desire to work up a new documented distribution of STP funds for the Rural <5000, which accounts for \$11.1 M/ annually. The original distribution calculation basis has been lost over time. It was recognized that there should be a known documentation for the distribution. It was discussed that any option would need to have all members on board. It was agreed that Derek would forward to E Board for discussion.

Larry Pearson – Provide update on Maintenance Management. This program needs to be in place by Dec. 31, 2007. Mandated in legislation. Jay Weber requested that all counties provide initial implementation costs. Jay wants to take these costs to the Legislature and ask them to delay implementation or pay for it.

Derek stated that the Tim Eyman issues may create greater pressure for Levy shifts and diversions. He would like a one pager on the differences and pros/cons. He remembers one developed in years past. There is a discussion in the County Engineer's manual. Jay will email out a one page levy shift vs. diversion sheet.

Gary Ekstedt discussed ROW issues. He stated that there is an outside company looking at County TIP's. Identifying projects that will require right of way. They send out letters in advance warning individuals of government takes. He suggests that you take a look at Consultants.Inc web site because if you have not been affected yet you will be.

Scott Merriman handed out 2004 session wrap ups. Scott suggested going for 3 or 4 issues that we want action on and be proactive. Instead of defense, go on offense. Derek will bring up at Executive Board or statewide meeting. Ross discussed bringing in the agreement and City Engineers on these issues.

Leo Boman, Benton County Commissioner discussed his proposal to add 2 members to the WSACE Transportation sub committee. This would reorganize the committee to include WSACE. This would include an East & West, Small/Large County Representative (large >150K) This would be a Chair type position for 2 years then automatic go to a Co-Chair position. Furnish 2 people to sit on committee. Attend the Transportation Committee meetings and potential appointment to legislative steering committee.

Scott Merriman stated that the Legislation that he sends out for review and comment he gets almost no response. Many participants stated they read the emails but don't respond. Many believed others doing their share for them.. Scott says basically working in the dark on important issues and needs feedback. Members said that they would put a greater effort to respond even if it's just an "I got it" emails. Derek says WSACE has standing legislation and

Law committee that we could get moving and will talk with Jerry and get on summer agenda. Dane Dunford, Whitman County, will assist and this will be forwarded to Jerry.

Ross provided a briefing on where we are with the Eastern Washington Stormwater manual. SHB 6562, didn't pass but SHB 6415 did on Industrial/Commercial side. This affects >1 acres sites and requires a notice of intent filed by March 2004. No permit yet available from DOE. DOE still pushing numeric standards and believes the manual will be adopted this summer.

Meeting adjourned.